Need for separate law for disinvestment

11. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Separate law for disinvestment needed," which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 10th September, 2001, highlighting, *inter alia,* reasons for limited success to Government's disinvestment progrrmmes;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is proposed to establish some independent machinery to handle and speed up the disinvestment programme, as has been proved by the success models of some other countries who have embraced open economy; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals being worked out, if any, with their present status?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRIARUN SHOURIE): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no lackadaisical approach on the part of the Government in implementing the disinvestment programme. In accordance with the clearly articulated disinvestment policy, tight time-frame has been prepared for disinvestment in 13 public sector enterprises this year, which are being regularly monitored. Out of them, HTL Limited and CMC Limited, have already been disinvested. Action has also been finalised in respect of certain hotels under ITDC & Hotel Corporation of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Review of disinvestment of AI

12. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the dwindling prospects of disinvestment of Air India in the wake of tough phase of low profitability for the aviation industry after the recent terrorist attacks in the USA on 1 lth September, 2001 and general erosion of value of the company due to delayed decision; and